

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02088 191328Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 /016 W
-----191331Z 007449 /44

P R 191205Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7778
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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FOR DAS DIKEOS FROM AMBASSADOR

KARACHI FOR RSS

MUSCAT ALSO FOR RSO GIBSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, APER
SUBJECT: TDY RSO COVERAGE IN KUWAIT FOR SUMMER 77

REF: (A) KUWAIT 1477 (NOTAL, (B) STATE 073085 (NOTAL),
(C) KARACHI 1759 (NOTAL).

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS AND THOSE OF RSS GARRETT TO
ARRANGE TDY SUPPORT FOR THIS POST AND ITS NEIGHBORS WHILE
OUR RSO, BILL GIBSON IS AWAY ON HOME LEAVE AND TRAINING THIS
SUMMER. THE "THREE TDY'S/ONE MONTH EACH" PROPOSAL IN
KARACHI 1759 WILL HAVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO US IN THE END, BUT,
I WOULD HOPE SOMETHING BETTER CAN BE WORKED OUT.

2. AN RSO COMING IN FRESH WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO FAMILIARIZE
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HIMSELF AND BECOME FULLY EFFECTIVE, EVEN WITH A WEEK'S
OVERLAP WITH GIBSON, WHICH I BELIEVE IS ESSENTIAL. IF THIS
EXERCISE IS TO BE REPEATED ANOTHER TWO TIMES DURING THE SUMMER,
I FEAR THAT OUR SECURITY POSTURE WILL BE SERIOUSLY WEAKENED DURING
THIS PERIOD. I WOULD VERY MUCH PREFER HAVING AN OFFICER ASSIGNED
FOR THE ENTIRE 3 MONTH TDY PERIOD.

3. I AM SURE I NEED NOT REITERATE THE STATEMENTS IN REF A CONCERN-
ING THE GNUINE SECURITY THREAT THAT EXISTS AT THESE GULF POSTS.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING GOOD CONTACT
WITH LOCAL SECURITY PERSONNEL,--SOMETHING WHICH RAPID TURNOVER
OF RSO'S OBVIOUSLY RENDERS MOST DIFFICULT--, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT
WE ARE JUST BEGINNING TO PULL TOGETHER A NUMBER OF PHYSICAL
SECURITY PROJECTS HERE AND IN THE LOWER GULF. THE PROPOSED
"REVOLVING DOOR" RSO PROGRAM WOULD PROBABLY MEAN THAT LITTLE,
IF ANY, PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THESE PROJECTS FOR THREE MONTHS.

5. WHILE, AS STATED ABOVE, I CAN ACCEPT THE PROPOSED ARRANGE-
MENTS AS A LAST RESORT, AND WILL WELCOME THE TDYERS, I WANT
TO ASK THAT YOU MAKE ONE MORE EFFORT TO LOCATE A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL,
EITHER FROM WASHINGTON OR THE FIELD, WHO CAN SPEND THE ENTIRE SUMMER
IN KUWAIT. I UNDERSTAND THAT TONY WALTERS, OUR TDY RSO LAST SUMMER,
FOUND THE EXPERIENCE REWARDING, AND EXCELLENT PREPARATION
FOR HIS NAIROBI ASSIGNMENT. KUWAIT MAY NOT BE EVERYONE'S CUP
OF TEA, BUT IT IS NOT ALL THAT BAD EITHER. WE WILL CERTAINLY DO
OUR BEST TO MAKE ANY TDY PERSONNEL COMFORTABLE HERE. WE PLAN
TO HOUSE WOWER COMES IN THE WELFARE ASSOCIATION'S
TRANSIENT APARTMENT, AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY EASES THE
OTHERWISE HEAVY FINANCIAL BURDEN OF STAYING IN A HOTEL HERE. I HOPE
YOU CAN FIND SOMEONE: I AM SURE MY COLLEAGUES IN THE GULF WOULD
AGREE THAT A SINGLE RSO RATHER THAN THREE WOULD BE HIGHLY PREFERABLE.
MAESTRONE

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